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Agenda item 142 (a)

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

Report of the Fifth Committee (Part II)

Rapporteur: Mr. Djamel MOKTEFI (Algeria)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The previous recommendation made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under item 142 (a) appears in the report of the Committee contained in document A/52/453.

2. The Fifth Committee resumed its consideration of the item at its 6th, 7th, 21st and 22nd meetings, on 6 and 7 October and 5 November 1997. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/52/SR.6, 7, 21 and 22).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on death and disability benefits (A/52/369);

(b) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on third-party claims, reform of the procedures for determining reimbursement to Member States for contingent-owned equipment and death and disability benefits (A/52/410).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.5/52/L.4

4. At the 21st meeting, on 5 November, the representative of Mexico introduced a draft resolution entitled "Death and disability benefits" (A/C.5/52/L.4), submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations.

5. At the 22nd meeting on 5 November 1997, the Fifth Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/52/L.4 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Death and disability benefits

The General Assembly,

Recalling paragraph 6 of section II of its resolution 51/218 E of 17 June 1997,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on death and disability benefits[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] as well as the views expressed by Member States in the Fifth Committee,

Emphasizing the need for early settlement of death and disability claims,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on death and disability benefits;[1]

2. Takes note also of the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

3. Authorizes the Secretary-General to implement without delay the administrative and payment arrangements and procedures contained in section II of his report, for the payment of awards in cases of death and disability sustained by troops for incidents occurring after 30 June 1997;

4. Reiterates its request to the Secretary-General, in accordance with its resolution 51/218 E, to present, as soon as possible and not later than April 1998, proposals for administrative resource reductions resulting from this new, simplified system;

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[1] A/52/369.

[2] A/52/410.

5. Also reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to present, in his next report, information on the cost of the new self-insurance system;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to settle the death and disability claims as soon as possible but not later than three months from the date of submission of the claim;

7. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue, in the new system, to take into account, when considering all mission-related death and disability claims, that such injury or death should be compensable, unless such injury or death was caused by the gross negligence or wilful misconduct of the injured or deceased member of the contingent, and requests the Secretary-General to include this notion in the aide-mémoire for troop-contributing countries.